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August 15, 2011

Barbara Rice
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program Leader
Nation Parks Service
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, California 94607

Dear Ms Rice,

On behalf of the Recreation Boaters of California, I am writing to express support for the Delta Protection Commission's (DPC) application to the National Parks Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program for the Great California Delta Trail Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo Counties. We are also fully committed to partnering with the DPC on the Blueprint Reports, through providing assistance with outreach to the large Delta boating community specifically regarding issues on water trails, and through identification of persons in this community to serve on the Technical and Stakeholder Advisory Committees.

The Great California Delta Trail legislation (SB 1556, Torklason) authorizes the DPC to complete a feasibility study and develop a plan for the establishment of a trail network through the five Delta counties. Using grant funding awarded by the California Coastal Conservancy, the DPC has already completed the process to develop a Great California Delta Trail blueprint in Contra Costa and Solano counties. The DPC is planning to develop the Blueprint Report for Sacramento, San Joaquin and Yolo Counties, in-house with limited staffing, and therefore in-kind assistance and partnerships are of tremendous value for the process.

We firmly believe that this project is closely aligned with the purposes of the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. What impresses us most about the project is the commitment to a broad, collaborative planning process which will ensure that hundreds of organizations and the public will be involved. Additionally, the Delta Trail will provide a much needed physical connection to various natural, recreational, cultural, historic, and economic resources throughout the Delta and will help gain visibility of the Delta, which could help to obtain more support in preserving, protecting and enhancing the Delta.

Again, we support the application for the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program and look forward to working with the DPC and the NPS to continue progress on the Great California Delta Trail.

Sincerely,

Linda Bendsen

Linda Benson
President

c: Michael Machado, Delta Protection Commission
Alex Westhoff, Delta Protection Commission